

Message

From: Riggs, James [riggs.james@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/13/2019 7:56:05 PM
To: Stoltzfus, Robert [Stoltzfus.Robert@epa.gov]; Isin, Amelie [Isin.Amelie@epa.gov]; Hagedorn, James [hagedorn.james@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: US Steel Clairton Update

Bob,

See the below email from Jason Willis of ACHD for a description of the axial compressors.

James Riggs

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Office of Air Enforcement and Compliance Assistance
Air Protection Division
EPA Region III
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From: hagedorn, james
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 9:12 AM
To: Riggs, James <riggs.james@epa.gov>
Cc: Boehmcke, Daniel <Boehmcke.Daniel@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: US Steel Clairton Update

From: Willis, Jason <Jason.Willis@AlleghenyCounty.US>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 9:09 AM
To: hagedorn, james <hagedorn.james@epa.gov>
Cc: Deluca, Dean <Dean.Deluca@AlleghenyCounty.US>
Subject: US Steel Clairton Update

Jim—

Per our phone call from yesterday, I wanted to follow up and provide a bit of an update as to the status of the Department's enforcement order concerning the Clairton fire. As a part of a temporary stay (one week) and pursuant to one of the provisions of the order, US steel provided the Department with is assessment as to why certain aspects of the order could not be done in the time given. They did acknowledge that they were able to stop the usage of coke oven gas at the boilers found at Edgar Thomson but noted that if there was a dual blast furnace outage, they would need to use some coke oven gas. Apparently, the boilers cannot be operated solely on natural gas. The Department is considering amending the order to allow for coke oven gas in the event both blast furnaces go offline.

US Steel has claimed that it can resume desulfurization when six of the axial compressors in the damaged building are brought back online. However, because extending the coking time beyond 27 hours will result in less coke oven gas, there would not be enough gas to properly desulf the lower gas flow. So, the Department is considering amending the order to extend the coking time to 27 rather than 30 and 36 hours. This will allow the proper gas flow when the desulf unit comes back to life. We are considering a shorter compliance time for the extension given that less extension will occur. US Steel can commit to getting the compressors installed by 4/1 and begin desulf by 4/15. Because they has shortened the time for complete repairs by a month, it no longer made sense to require hot idle.

Finally, because the Department has little data to corroborate U.S. Steel's assertions, we are asking for information to support their claims in the form of SOPs, in addition to emission and operational data that was included in the original order.

The hearing officer extended the stay until tomorrow (3/13) to allow for a revised order to be issued. At this moment, we are not sure whether US Steel will accept these new provisions but we are intending to move forward as this is not a settlement situation. If you need further details or clarifications, please feel free to contact me. I will do my best to help.

Best,

Jason



Jason K. Willis, Esq.

Assistant Solicitor

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